

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA
SUBJ: ONTARIO LABOR LEADERS' VIEW ON QUEBEC

1. AT CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE MARCH 2, CANADIAN NATIONAL DIRECTOR GERARD DOCQUIER, UNITED STEEL WORKERS, AND CLIFFORD PILKEY, PRESIDENT, ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOR, SHARPLY DISAGREED ABOUT SOLUTION TO PARTI QUEBECOIS' DEMAND FOR CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC "SOVEREIGNTY - ASSOCIATION". PILKEY VIEWS QUESTION AS LEADER OF LARGEST ANGLO TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION IN CANADA; DOCQUIER AS IMMIGRANT QUEBECOIS TRANSPLANTED TO ONTARIO. DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON BILL 101; PROTECTION OF MINORITY CULTURE; AND EXODUS OF CORPORATIONS FROM QUEBEC.

2. PILKEY AND DOCQUIER ADMANTLY DISAGREED ON BILL 101. PILKEY STRONGLY SUSPECTS CAMILLE LAURIN, PQ CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, NURSES DEEP HURT BY ANGLOS AND IS SET ON REVENGE. BILL 101 IS "NOT A LOGICAL PROGRESSION ALONG PATH TO CULTURAL SELF-RESPECT". DOCQUIER ADMIRES 101, AND STATES THAT IT IS THE FIRST LANGUAGE LEGISLATION DEVELOPED IN THREE SUCCESSIVE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS,
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SATISFACTORY TO THE PEOPLE OF QUEBEC. HOWEVER, ALL LABOR LEADERS PRESENT AGREED UNRESERVEDLY THAT FEDERAL POLICY OF BILINGUALISM IS NOT THE SOLUTION.

3. DOCQUIER OUTRAGED AT ANGLOS' CLAIM THAT ENGLISH MINORITY RIGHTS NOT RESPECTED IN QUEBEC. "IN QUEBEC WE HAVE THREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COLLEGES, IN ONTARIO A COLLEGE STUDENT HAS TO TREK TO

SUDBURY TO STUDY IN FRENCH". PILKEY CONCEDED THE POINT.

4. AS TO CORPORATE TRANSFERS OUT OF QUEBEC, DOCQUIER CRITICAL OF ANGLO MEDIA'S OVERDRAMATIZATION. "WITH REASONABLE EFFORT AND GOODWILL, CANADIAN CORPORATIONS CAN DO BUSINESS IN FRENCH. GENERAL

MOTORS HAS NO PROBLEM - IN FACT THEY'RE CONSIDERING PUTTING ANOTHER DOLS 400 MILLION INTO QUEBEC". PILKEY DISAGREES:"CORPORATIONS

HAVE MADE REASONABLE EFFORT, INCLUDING INTENSIVE FRENCH TRAINING FOR KEY FOREMEN, BUT PQ DEMANDS ARE UNREASONABLE."

5. DOCQUIER IS CERTAINLY NOT A SEPARTIST. HE BELIEVES QUEBECKERS ARE NORTH AMERICANS AS RESULT OF SHARED HISTORY OF SETTLER HARDSHIP, BUT THAT THEY ARE LOST IN CONTINENT OF 230 MILLION ANGLOS. THERE MUST THEREFORE BE A CULTURAL ACCOMODATION BUT THE IDEA OF ECONOMIC SEPARATISM IS RIDICULOUS: ("CAN YOU IMAGINE BRITTANY SEPARATING FROM FRANCE") IN HIS OPINION, RENE LEVESQUE IS NOT A COMMITTED SEPARATIST, RATHER A SHARP BAARGAINER. HE SEES PQ MINISTERS NOW PEERING OVER CLIFF OF SEPARATISM, AND STEPPING BACK. HE STATES QUEBEC POLITICS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT IN SHORT-TERM BUT IF PQ AVOIDS CORRUPTION ("OUR FIRST CLEAN ADMINISTRATION IN SIXTY YEARS") LEVESQUE WILL KEEP POWER.
DIGGINS

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